

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 291728 TOSEC 310293

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT LETTER TO EDITOR WASHINGTON POST
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, HEADED "THE KOREAN SCANDAL AND
ASIAN SECURITY." THE WRITER, T.J. COOLIDGE, JR., IS
CHAIRMAN OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S EAST ASIA PROGRAM AND
MEMBER OF THE U.S.-KOREA ECONOMIC COUNCIL.

2. ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION REPORTED IN YOUR PAPER
INVOLVING U.S. CONGRESSMEN, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE
KOREAN CIA AND A KOREAN RESIDENT IN WASHINGTON BRING
AMERICANS, ONCE AGAIN, FACE TO FACE WITH THE POSSIBILITY
OF A MAJOR SCANDAL OF WATERGATE PROPORATIONS COMPLICATED
BY DIPLOMATIC SENSITIVITIES. WE CAN HOPE THAT BEHIND
THE NEWS STORIES THE COMPETENT INVESTIGATORY AGENCIES
WILL CLEAR THE MATTER UP WITH DISPATCH AND, IF THE WORST
TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE, DIPLOMATS WILL BE EXPELLED, KOREAN
CIA OPERATIONS IN THE U.S. WILL BE CURTAILED, CONGRESS-
MEN DISCIPLINED AND ALL THE FACTS REVEALED AND THE PROB-
LEM SETTLED. HOWEVER IT DOES NOT APPEAR AS THOUGH THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 291728 TOSEC 310293

ISSUE CAN BE SO SIMPLY WRAPPED UP. IF THE KOREAN GOV-

ERNMENT IS IN FACT INVOLVED THIS WILL AFFECT THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN IN THE WESTERN

PACIFIC BECAUSE OUR RELATIONS WITH KOREA WILL BE PUT UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURE. THE NEWS COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENT IN YOUR PAPER ALSO INDICATES THE DANGER OF PUBLIC OPINION OPERATING ON A DOUBLE STANDARD. YOU USE THE TERM "KOREAN BRIBERY" BUT IT COULD JUST AS EASILY BE CALLED "WASHINGTON CORRUPTION." THE DANGER IS THAT IT WILL BE EASY TO MAKE A WHIPPING BOY OUT OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT THAT IS UNPOPULAR WITH LARGE SEGMENTS OF AMERICAN OPINION, THEREBY LETTING AMERICA OFF THE HOOK FOR ITS OWN SHORTCOMINGS.

3. THERE MAY BE ANOTHER ISSUE IN THE AMERICAN CIA POLICY OF BUGGING PRESIDENTIAL OFFICES OF ALLIES. WOULD THIS BE A PROBLEM FOR THE UNITED STATES WITH GERMANY, ENGLAND, FRANCE AND JAPAN? IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW IT COULD NOT BECOME AN ISSUE IN VIEW OF THE EASE WITH WHICH SUCH SENSITIVE OPERATIONS CAN BE LEAKED. PROBABLY MOST SERIOUS OF ALL IS THE FACT THAT THE ALLEGATIONS HAVE POISONED THE ATMOSPHERE OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION CONCERNING OUR SECURITY COMMITMENTS IN ASIA AND TOWARD THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN PARTICULAR. NOW A CONGRESSMAN VOTING ON WHAT HE THINKS ARE STRICTLY SECURITY INTERESTS MAY BE TARRED WITH THE BRUSH OF SCANDAL. WILL OUR LAW-MAKERS, WHETHER OR NOT INNOCENT OF IMPROPER DEALINGS WITH THE KOREANS, HAVE THE COURAGE TO VOTE OBJECTIVELY ON LONG RANGE U.S. INTERESTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES?

4. IT IS VITAL THAT CONCERNED AMERICANS REFLECT AND SPEAK OUT ON BEHALF OF OUR LONG RANGE INTERESTS AND NOT BUCKLE UNDER THE RENEWED ATTACKS THAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM OPPONENTS OF OUR PRESENT ASIAN DEFENSE POLICY. EVEN IF THE FACTS FROM THE INVESTIGATION HURT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PRESENT REGIME IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT OUR FUNDAMENTAL POLICIES GO BEYOND THE POLITICS OF A PARTICULAR GOVERNMENT AND WE OUGHT NOT LET THE HEAT OF AN INVESTIGATION MELT THE ENTIRE FRAMEWORK OF OUR ASIAN RELATIONSHIPS AND POLI-
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PAGE 03 STATE 291728 TOSEC 310293

CIES. END TEXT. ROBINSON

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